

# GAMEDAYGUIDE

www.kstatecollegian.com | Friday, October 28, 2011 | K-State vs. Oklahoma

## Spotlight is on Wildcat defense this Saturday



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

**Meshak Williams** sacks Kansas quarterback **Jordan Webb** during last Saturday's game in Lawrence. The Wildcats will host the ninth ranked Oklahoma Sooners this Saturday at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

**Sean Frye**  
staff writer

Seven weeks into the season, the Wildcats are not only undefeated, but their defense has proven to be one of the toughest, grittiest and most effective in the country. That is a far cry from their 2010 showing, when teams had field days against the Wildcats.

So far, members of the defensive unit have done what they need to do in order to win, whether it was pretty or not. They held their first two opponents to 7 combined points, held Miami out of the end zone in a last-minute goal-line stand and have intercepted all but one of the quarterbacks they have faced. But at times, the defense struggled to stop the fast-paced offenses of Baylor and Texas Tech. However, in both of those games, they made the most of opportunities to pull out a win.

Now the defense will face their biggest test of the year so far. The game will be put under the national spotlight; ESPN will broadcast the game on Saturday starting at 2:30 p.m. This game against the Sooners holds major implications not only for the Big 12 Conference standings, but also as to whether or not K-State will get a chance to play

in a Bowl Championship Series game come holiday season.

"They all understand the significance of the ballgame and the tremendous team that we are playing," said head coach Bill Snyder. "But how you prepare does not or should not really change."

The main challenge for the Wildcats will rest upon the shoulders of the secondary, which will be responsible for covering receivers Ryan Broyles and Kenny Stills. Both wideouts have combined for 1,364 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns.

"I think Broyles is probably the most productive college football receiver

as well as Broyles can."

The secondary has been impressive thus far this season. The Wildcats' streak of getting at least one interception per game finally ended last week, when Kansas Jayhawks' starting quarterback Jordan Webb went the distance without throwing a pick. Wildcat defense took notice of how critical turnovers were in last Saturday's game when Texas Tech beat Oklahoma, so they will look to force a few of their own this Saturday.

"I know that [Texas Tech] had a lot of opportunities to get interceptions off of tipped balls," Malone said. "I hope that that is something that we have the op-

"We are into making ourselves better. We are playing nameless faces, and that is the way we approach it each week whether we are playing KU, OU or anybody else in the conference."

**Tysyn Hartman**  
senior starting safety

by his stats," said defensive back Nigel Malone. "So that speaks for itself, and Kenny Stills is a young guy, up-and-coming, but he also has a lot of talent. He can go out there and make plays just

portunity to do in the upcoming game."

Another big obstacle is Heisman Trophy candidate Landry Jones, the stellar quarterback who has racked up 2,589 passing yards and 21 touchdowns

through the air. He has a quick release and is rarely brought down for a sack.

"We're going to get the 13th guy on the field," Snyder said jokingly. "I don't know how you get to him. He throws the ball so quick. We're not any different than anybody else, we're gonna try hard. But he's a difficult guy to get to."

Regardless of the big name that the Oklahoma Sooners' offense possesses, the simple fact of the matter is that this defense is going up against one of the most storied programs in college football history as 13.5-point underdogs.

"They have been good," said starting safety Tysyn Hartman. "They have always been good as far back as we can remember. They have a tradition of winning and have been coached well, great athletes and great players."

Despite being double-digit underdogs in the biggest game of the season, ultimately, the defensive unit is approaching their preparations like they have all season, the way they earned seven wins and zero losses.

"We try to prepare the same week in and week out," Hartman said. "We are into making ourselves better. We are playing nameless faces, and that is the way we approach it each week whether we are playing KU, OU or anybody else in the conference."

### BY THE NUMBERS

Key numbers to think of during Saturday's game

**2**

-consecutive weeks that Tyler Lockett has taken a kick return for a touchdown

Lockett is starting to become a big-time player for the Wildcats. Against Texas Tech, his return came when the Red Raiders had just taken a 14-6 lead and appeared to be gaining momentum in the game.

Lockett will be an important player in the game as he will be looked upon to give the Wildcats good field position so they do not have to go the length of the field against a tough Sooners defense.

**13**

-the number of years it has been since Oklahoma has lost consecutive conference games

Coach Bob Stoops has always been able to get his team back on track after a loss. Oklahoma is going to come out hungrier than ever against the Wildcats, and it is a key for the Wildcats to respond positively. This is going to be an incredibly emotional game with both games willing to do whatever to win the game. The Wildcats have to play within themselves and play the football that they have all year. Oklahoma is too talented of a team to shut down, they are going to make some plays and score some points. The Wildcats just cannot get down when something goes bad and respond with plays of their own.

**14**

- the number of rushing touchdowns by Collin Klein

Klein currently is the leader in the Big 12 in rushing touchdowns. His ability to master the zone read has enabled him to be able to have the defense to go after the running back, leaving him opportunities to score all of these touchdowns. With Klein continuing to improve as a passer, it is only going to open up more running room for Klein as the season goes on.

**195**

- career high passing yards for Klein, set last week

Klein continues to improve as a quarterback, and as he does, it only makes the Wildcats that much more dangerous. Teams are starting to have to worry about the Wildcats throwing the ball, and what that does is open up the running game that much more. If Klein continues this improvement, he will become almost impossible for defenses to gameplan for.

**572**

-the number of yards that the Sooners allowed to Texas Tech

The Red Raiders were able to move the ball at will against the Sooners defense, both through the air and on the ground. Seth Doege had a field day throwing for 441 yards and four touchdowns.

With how effective of a running team that the Wildcats are, expect the Sooners to load up the box and have man to man coverage on the outside. If this happens, expect to see Klein to take some chances deep, especially going after Oklahoma cornerback Gabe Lynn. Lynn was picked on all day by the Red Raiders as he gave up countless amount of yards.

**2003**

-the last time that the Wildcats beat the Sooners

Oklahoma came into the Big 12 Championship game regarded as the greatest college football team ever. What happened would go down in K-State history as one of the greatest victories in school history. The Wildcats dismantled the Sooners 35-7 to win the Big 12 Championship game. This is the same outcome that the fans are hoping for, and this promises to make Saturday one of the craziest days in recent Manhattan history.

-Compiled by Mark Kern

## K-State offense hopes to build off of KU game

**Corbin McGuire**  
staff writer

K-State came into the game against KU in a role it has not played much this year, the favorite. The Wildcats did not take the Jayhawks lightly despite being favored and dominated in a 59-21 blowout victory.

The offense put an end to the norm of a slow first half by putting up 31 points in the first against the Jayhawks, highlighted by three Collin Klein rushing touchdowns. The Wildcats took off on their second

"They have become a more disciplined group, game in and game out."

**Bill Snyder**  
head coach

drive, going 73 yards on seven plays to score the first of Klein's four total rushing touchdowns.

The offense did not let its foot off the gas pedal, though, scoring on its next six drives of the game, including an Anthony Cantele field goal to end the first half. The Wildcats lead 31-14 at halftime and sent most of the Jayhawk fans out of Memorial Stadium early by scoring three touchdowns in the first five minutes of the third quarter. The third-quarter explosion, sparked by a 97-yard touchdown return from Tyler Lockett to start the second half, suffocated any hopes of a Jayhawk comeback. Coach Bill Snyder said he was happy with the offense's improvement and overall performance.



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

After catching a pass, freshman receiver, **Tyler Lockett**, runs for more yards, resulting in a 48-yard pass play that left one second on the clock in the first half. The Wildcats successfully kicked a field goal on the next play.

"I think there was a balance between running and the pass - we did not throw it as much in the second half for obvious reasons, but I think there was in the first half. We created a little more balance," Snyder said. "I think we are a better football team

when we have more balance in our offense."

The Wildcats racked up 466 yards of total offense to outgain the Jayhawk offense, something the Wildcats had not achieved since facing Kent State earlier this season. Addition-

ally, the offense had zero turnovers for the second straight week and had zero offensive penalties for the game, something Snyder praised.

"They have become a more

OFFENSE | pg. 2



GAMEDAYGUIDE

‘Snyder-Ball’ is not always pretty, but it gets the job done each week



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

After an undefeated 7-0 start to the season, the Wildcats will face a tough test against the Oklahoma Sooners in Manhattan on Saturday.



Jared Brown

With the exception of the 59-21 beatdown the Wildcats put on the Jayhawks last weekend in Lawrence and the 37-0 shutout put on Kent State in the second week of the season, the Wildcats have only outscored opponents by four and a half points per game in the other five wins. Yet here it is, week nine of the college football season and the Wildcats sit

tied atop the Big 12 Conference standings with Oklahoma State and are ranked eight in the BCS standings. The Wildcats do not play sexy football by any means. The offense does not spread out an opponent's defense by firing the ball all over the field as evident by quarterback Collin Klein's average of only 19 pass attempts per game and 133.4 yards per game, which ranks ninth among starting quarterbacks in the Big 12. K-State doesn't try to outscore their opponents with their offense, but has placed focus on defense and special teams this season. K-State is playing a different brand of football, a brand that keys on often-overlooked stats that put teams in a position to

win games. The brand of football is opportunistic. It centers on turnovers, returns, defensive touchdowns, special teams touchdowns, blocks and ball control. This style of football, named after Virginia Tech head coach Frank Beamer, originated as Beamer-Ball, but has been tailored and utilized at K-State. This K-State brand, likewise, is called Snyder-Ball. Like Beamer-Ball at Virginia Tech, Snyder-Ball has taken advantage of momentum-shifting plays like Raphael Guidry's two blocked kicks, Nigel Malone's four interceptions and Tyler Lockett's two kick-off returns for touchdowns. Snyder-Ball has used these big plays to defeat several favored oppo-

nents this season. The Wildcats' defense has forced 10 interceptions, second among all teams in the Big 12, to only three interceptions thrown this season by Klein. The defense is also giving up only 19.7 points per game to opponents while the offense is scoring 33.5 points per game. The Sooners roll into Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Saturday with a sour taste in their mouths after their poor performance in a 41-38 loss last weekend at against Texas Tech that snapped Oklahoma's 39 home game winning streak. This week, like in many weeks prior, the Wildcats are the underdogs, with Oklahoma favored by 13. The Wildcats will need to

play Snyder-Ball this weekend in order to upset the Sooners. If the Wildcats can create pressure on Heisman candidate Landry Jones and force him to throw a couple of interceptions, then their chances of winning go up. If Lockett can return a kickoff for a touchdown for the third straight week, the odds go up even more. The Wildcat offense will need to continue to run the ball and the clock as they have done in the first seven games of the season. The Wildcats are controlling the ball on offense for an average of nine and a half more minutes than their opponents this season and should look to keep that trend going this weekend. If Klein and the Wildcat offense can control the

tempo and keep Oklahoma's high-powered offense on the sidelines then the Wildcats have a great chance of covering the spread again and taking down the Sooners. The Wildcats should continue to play the same style of football that has made them so successful this year. It's the style of football that has gotten them off to their first 7-0 start since 1999. It's the style of football that is not flashy and does not have star power. It is the style of football that takes advantage of every snap. It is the style of football that wins games for K-State. It is Snyder-Ball. Jared Brown is a senior in marketing. Please send all comments to [sports@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:sports@spub.ksu.edu).

OFFENSE | Wildcat offense hopes to deliver Sooners another upset

Continued from page 1

disciplined group, game in and game out," Snyder said. More specifically, Snyder spoke highly of the offensive line. "They play together well," Snyder said. "There is a thing about offensive lineman together anywhere in the country - they kind of bond together and they communicate well and work well together well on the field. It is like the right hand knowing what the

left hand is doing." K-State faces its most difficult task of the season thus far, taking on the Oklahoma Sooners on Saturday. The Sooners are coming off a shocking upset at the hands of the Texas Tech Red Raiders last week. The game gave the Sooners their first loss on the year, snapped a 39-game home winning streak and most likely cost the Sooners a chance at a BCS title bid.

The Wildcats hope to give the Sooners their second straight loss, a feat that has not been accomplished since Bob Stoops' first year as head coach in 1999. The Sooners bring a talented defense to the table, led by a monstrous defensive line. The Wildcats know the Sooner defense is stout, but not impenetrable, as the team saw when they watched the Sooners play Texas Tech. The Red Raiders

put up 572 yards of total offense against the Sooners defense, an encouraging stat for the K-State offense. Offensive lineman BJ Finney said the Sooners are "by far" the most talented defense they have seen this season. "They come off of the ball low, they are fast, they play hard and they never really give in," Finney said. "It is going to be a handful for the whole four quarters."

Snyder said the team understands the significance of this weekend's game but the week of preparation will not change because of it. The Wildcats will try and

take another step towards winning a Big 12 Championship on their homecoming in front of a sellout crowd on Saturday. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. and will be televised on ESPN.

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MATCHING UP

K-STATE RUSH OFFENSE VS. OKLAHOMA RUSH DEFENSE

If K-State plans on sticking to its game on Saturday, it will have to do so against an impressive rush defense. Quarterback Collin Klein and running back John Hubert lead the team with 187 yards combined per game, but have yet to do so against a defense of this caliber. Led by linebacker Travis Lewis and defensive end Ronnell Lewis, Oklahoma has allowed its opponents an average of only 116.6 yards on the ground. The Wildcats will have to put together one of their best performances of the season if they hope to be successful running the ball against the Sooners.

ADVANTAGE: NONE



OKLAHOMA PASS OFFENSE VS. K-STATE PASS DEFENSE

The Sooners present a potent passing attack powered by quarterback Landry Jones. Jones has averaged 370 yards a game so far this season and has completed 65 percent of his 308 passing attempts. Ryan Broyles, Kenny Stills and Jaz Reynolds lead the Sooners' receiving corps with all three averaging over 75 yards a game. However, K-State has a battle-tested secondary that has already gone up against the likes of Baylor and Texas Tech. So far this season the Wildcats have intercepted at least one pass in every game, a trend that will need to continue in order to slow down Oklahoma.

ADVANTAGE: OKLAHOMA



OKLAHOMA RUSH OFFENSE VS. K-STATE RUSH DEFENSE

Oklahoma has found moderate success in the run game so far this season, averaging 166.6 yards per game rushing the ball. Running back Dom Whaley leads the team with a 104.5 yard average and nine touchdowns, but the Sooners have little to show other than him. On the other side of the ball, K-State has been phenomenal all season at stopping the run and currently ranks 13 in rushing defense. If the Wildcats are able to shut down Oklahoma on the ground, they will once again have an opportunity to make the opposing offense one-dimensional.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



K-STATE SPECIAL TEAMS VS. OKLAHOMA SPECIAL TEAMS

Oklahoma has been impressive on special teams all across the board this season, but has shown that they can give up some big yardage on returns. For K-State, Tyler Lockett has become a rising star returning the ball and could create problems for the Sooners' coverage teams. The Wildcats have continued to do an outstanding job of shutting down opposing return men for minimal gains, allowing 20.2 yards per kickoff and just 6.1 yards on punt returns. If Oklahoma is unable to match K-State's performance in coverage, special teams could once again play a vital role for the Wildcats.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



K-STATE PASS OFFENSE VS. OKLAHOMA PASS DEFENSE

The Wildcats continue to show that they can find success passing the ball, and while it may not be much, the 140 yards per game that K-State averages through the air has proven to be important. Klein has grown more comfortable in the pocket as the season progresses, and will have a chance to use his arm against the Sooners' secondary. Last week against Texas Tech, Oklahoma showed signs of vulnerability against the pass, an area that has been a concern for the team over the past few games. While K-State won't likely amass any astounding numbers, it shouldn't be difficult for the receivers to pick up some decent yardage.

ADVANTAGE: NEITHER



INTANGIBLES

Though the Wildcats will enter Saturday's contest the higher ranked team, they are once again the projected underdog. Last week against Texas Tech the Sooners were exposed on defense, and those weaknesses will not go unnoticed by head coach Bill Snyder. As for Oklahoma, the national title is still within reach, but a second loss would shatter the Sooners' chances. Both teams will have plenty of momentum when they step onto the field, but it has been a long time since a game of this magnitude has been played inside the walls of Bill Snyder Family Stadium. If the fans can get to Oklahoma early, look for K-State to come out swinging.

ADVANTAGE: K-STATE



FINAL SCORE PREDICTION: 31-28 K-STATE

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BREAKING DOWN THE SOONERS

LANDRY JONES  
QUARTERBACK # 12

Jones, when in a rhythm, is as good as almost any quarterback in the country. Jones is able to get the ball out quick to his wide receivers, enabling them to make a play after the catch. However, when pressured, Jones likes to dance in the pocket and has a tendency to miss his receivers. If the Wildcats are able to get pressure, they should have some success, if not, Jones could have a big game.

RYAN BROYLES  
WIDE RECEIVER # 85

The all-time receiving leader in NCAA history gives Landry Jones one of the most explosive weapons in all of college football. Broyles has shown the ability to make a big play up top, but also is not scared to go over the middle and make the tough catch. Broyles along with Kenny Stills will give K-State a challenge that they have not faced up to this point in the season.

TRAVIS LEWIS  
LINEBACKER #28

Lewis is the leader of the Sooners defense. Lewis has the ability to make plays against the run as well as cover a tight end down the field if needed. Oklahoma got rocked last week against Texas Tech, so look for Lewis to have his defensive teammates fired up and ready to go against the Wildcats. A key will be the Wildcats offensive line slowing down the pursuit of the Sooners front four.

0 = OFFENSE  
X = DEFENSE



**Sean Frye**

The No. 11 Oklahoma Sooners, who are 6-1 overall, 2-1 in the Big 12 Conference, and fresh off of their heartbreaking 41-38 loss at the hands of the Texas Tech Red Raiders, will storm into Manhattan Saturday afternoon for a 2:30 p.m. showdown with the No. 10 K-State Wildcats. If the Sooners want to turn their fortunes around, quarterback Landry Jones, wide receivers Ryan Broyles and Kenny Stills and senior linebacker Travis Lewis will all need to have solid outings.

Dreams the Sooners had of running the table and playing for the national title were dashed last Saturday night,

when Texas Tech raided Norman, Okla. and ended the 39 home game winning streak held by the Sooners.

Now the Sooners have to come to Manhattan to face what has been the nation's most surprising team, the same team that is one spot above them in both the AP and BCS polls. Under head coach Bob Stoops, the Sooners have only lost two straight regular season games once, and that was in Stoops' first year back in 1999.

Jones is by and large the superstar of this team. He is a Heisman Trophy candidate, and his 512 yards passing and five touchdowns against the Red Raiders were arguably the lone bright spots for the Sooners. On the season, Jones has racked up 2,589 yards passing and 21 touchdowns compared to seven interceptions. Behind him, the Sooners have the nation's fourth-ranked passing of-

fense and total offense.

"He throws the ball so quick," said head coach Bill Snyder. "He's a difficult guy to get to. He's got an awfully good offensive line in front of him as well."

While Jones is getting the hype that Heisman candidates rightfully receive, his top two receivers have been amongst the nation's best all year. Broyles, who set the NCAA all-time receiving mark against the Kansas Jayhawks two weeks ago, leads the Sooners with 899 yards receiving, nine touchdowns and 67 catches.

Stills has also been impressive as a second option for Jones. Despite only playing five games this year, he is second to every category that Broyles leads with 465 yards catching, seven touchdowns and 35 grabs.

"They have some very good,

young guys," Snyder said. "You know, the youngster from Baylor, [Kendall] Wright, was a very talented wide receiver with tremendous speed. He has two or three inches on us. He is not the only one. A bunch of other guys who have catches, including the tight end who they will flex off and give you the appearance that they are playing with four wide receivers, and he is one of them – they like to get the ball to him and he does a nice job. Those are not easy matchups for us."

On the defensive side of the ball, the Sooners initially went into the year hyped as one of the best defenses in the land. But after less than impressive showings against the Kansas Jayhawks and Texas Tech Red

Raiders, where they collectively gave up 55 points, many are starting to doubt the legitimacy of the Sooner defense.

Lewis, the senior leader on the defensive side of the ball, will have a ton of responsibility on Saturday to contain the dynamic, balanced offense that K-State implements. Lewis has 51 tackles, including 29 solo tackles on the year, both of which are team bests. Safety Tony Jefferson has also been impressive, hauling in four interceptions and making 41 tackles.

"You have to prepare for a variety of combinations of defensive personnel," Snyder said. "But you also have to prepare

for a variety of defensive schemes. They're very bright coaches. It's like starting the season over again. They have youngsters that have been in and out."

Stoops, who is undoubtedly Snyder's most successful protégé, has a mountain to climb on Saturday against the "surprising" Wildcats. But he has plenty of weapons at his disposal, so expect an all-out battle on Saturday.

**Sean is a sophomore in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to [sports@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:sports@spub.ksu.edu)**

# Kern's Heisman Watch: Stanford's Luck is still in the running

**Mark Kern**  
assistant sports editor

**1. Trent Richardson Alabama RB -**

Richardson emerges as the leader after another good game against the Volunteers. His streak of six consecutive 100 yard games ended, but he still scored two touchdowns. He has the week off before Alabama takes on the LSU Tigers in what is being hyped up to be this season's "Game of the Century."

Richardson is a powerful running back that is forces defenses to gang tackle. He has also shown the ability to take a run and take it the distance with his speed.

With the defense that LSU has, Richardson has his chance to put himself head and shoulders above all of the other contenders.

**2. Andrew Luck Stanford QB-**

Luck is the catalyst of an extremely balanced offense. Luck has not put up the numbers that you would expect, but that is a slight towards him. He has been outstanding this year, it is just that the level of talent they have faced has caused him to be taken out of games early.

Stanford is now entering the heart of their schedule, so Luck is going to have plenty of opportunities to show the nation why he was the preseason favorite for the award.

**3. Tajh Boyd Clemson QB-**

An unknown at the beginning of the year,

Boyd has become a legitimate threat.

Boyd is the leader of what is the most explosive offense in all of the country. With weapons such as Andre Ellington, Sammy Watkins and Mike Bellamy, Boyd has a list of guys that have the potential to take it for six any time he puts the ball in their hands.

Boyd has not only put himself in the Heisman race, but also made Clemson a legitimate title contender.

With games against South Carolina and a potential ACC title game, Boyd will have a couple of opportunities to show himself to the country. If the Tigers are able to win out and be in the title game, then Boyd will probably be there in New York at the Heisman presentation.

**4. Brandon Weeden Oklahoma QB-**

Weeden has thrown for 2,436 yards and 19 touchdowns on the season. He has teamed up with wide receiver Justin Blackmon to form one of the best quarterback wide receiver duos in the country.

The Cowboys are ranked third in the Bowl Championship Series and play host to the Baylor Bears. Weeden has been in complete control of the offense all year and is a main reason why the Cowboys have emerged as a national title contender.

As with all of the other players, if the Cowboys keep winning and play themselves into the championship, than Weeden will have a great shot at taking home the Heisman.

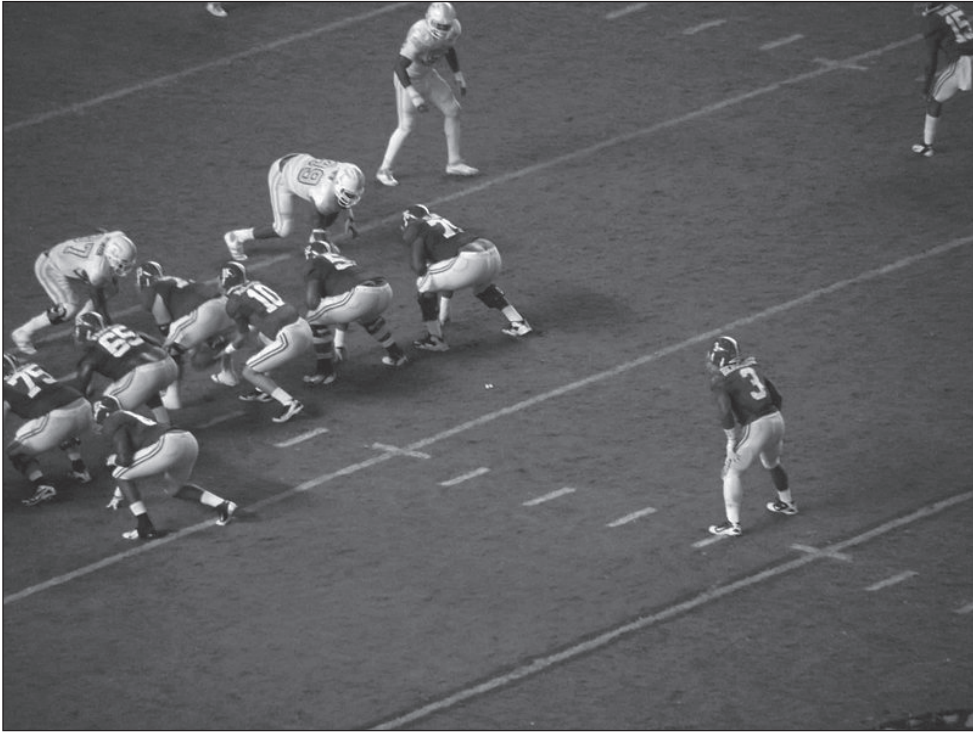


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**Trent Richardson** lines up in the backfield, waiting to receive the ball against the Tennessee Volunteers.

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# Quarterback leads team on, off field

Sean Frye  
staff writer

The balanced attack that the K-State Wildcats have inflicted, both offensively and defensively, has been one of the main factors that led the Wildcats to an undefeated, 7-0 record so far this season. However, there is one man that is the undisputed leader of this team, the man that should legitimately be considered a Heisman Trophy candidate.

That man is junior starting quarterback Collin Klein.

Klein, who has passed for 934 yards and eight touchdowns and rushed for 670 yards and four touchdowns, has had a tremendous impact in what is his first year as the season-opening signal caller.

"It has been an awesome journey so far," Klein said. "We have really come together in a very special way, and I know that we can definitely continue that improvement."

When Klein took over for Carson Coffman, who struggled mightily during his tenure with the Wildcats, the skeptics were running rampant. Critics of Klein during the preseason claimed that he had limited passing abilities, that he was not a playmaker and that he would fail to effectively run the offense.

However, the timid, soft-spoken Klein took it all in stride and has thus far proven every single one of his critics wrong.

"I would say it is improving," Klein said about his play so far this year. "It is one of those deals where I can tell you more at the end of the season when ev-

erything is said and done. I have been able to make some improvements, but I still have a lot of room to improve."

Off the field, Klein is the kind of young man that a college-aged woman would want to take home to a strict, old-school father. He never utters obscenities. He opens doors for people, and his overall mannerisms are impossible to miss.

**"It has been an awesome journey so far. We have really come together in a very special way, and I know that we can definitely continue that improvement."**

**Collin Klein**  
starting quarterback

However, on the field, his bloody, gutsy, enthusiastic performances seem to directly contradict his off-the-field persona.

"He's a competitor," said starting safety Tysyn Hartman. "Everybody knows how great of a person he is. He has great character and integrity. But at the end of the day, he is a competitor. He has a great passion for the day and wants to win."

Another part of Klein's persona is his leadership ability. His ability to rally the team in situations where the Wildcats were down and almost out (down four points late against Eastern Kentucky, down three points in the fourth quarter against Miami, down nine points in the fourth quarter against Baylor,

down eight points at halftime against Texas Tech) has lifted K-State not only to a 7-0 mark, but a top ten ranking in the Bowl Championship Series poll.

"We have great leaders across the board on this team," said athletics director John Currie. "I certainly have a lot of respect for the way Coach Snyder has developed the right kind of culture and discipline within our team, along with great leadership. And that is certainly evident with our quarterback position."

Any good leader has an essence of approachability about him or her, and Klein is no exception. Many of Klein's teammates lean on him not only to make a big play, but to help them out with their lives off the field as well.

"He provides somebody you can always talk to if you're having hard times," said freshman starting center BJ Finney. "He's kind of a big brother. For me, personally, he can tell when something is bugging me and he'll pry it out of me eventually. He makes everybody feel welcome and a part of the family."

Overall, Klein's impact on the team has been felt by the players, coaches, fans and media. He has proven the skeptics wrong and his performance this week against the Sooners, as well as the rest of the year, will make or break the Wildcats.

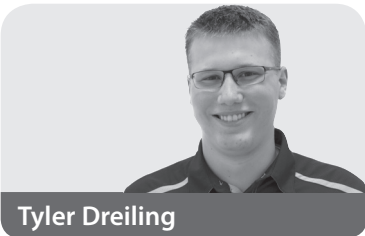
"At this point, we just need to keep focus on the next step, and there will be a time where we can look back and see that it has been pretty special, but it is not over yet," Klein said. "The job is not done and we have to make sure that we keep our nose to the grindstone and not look too far ahead or back behind to distract us."



Logan M. Jones | Collegian

K-State quarterback, **Collin Klein**, reads the Kansas defense and hands the ball off to running back, **John Hubert**, during Saturday's game in Lawrence.

# Winning attitude needed



Tyler Dreiling

On the roller coaster ride that has been the 2011 Kansas State football season, we have seen the Wildcats win in just about every way possible.

We have seen the great escapes (Eastern Kentucky, Miami and Baylor). We've seen the blowouts (Kent State and Kansas). And we've seen the all-around, start-to-finish solid victories (Missouri, Texas Tech).

We have also seen K-State as a favorite and an underdog. A home team and road traveler. A David and Goliath.

But for the Wildcats to beat top-10 foe Oklahoma on Saturday, in what is the biggest game for K-State in eight years, they must bring an attitude we have not seen from Bill Snyder's squad since last season's 39-14 victory over Texas.

It is not about who is the favorite or underdog, or who needs a victory more. It's about K-State proving, once and for all, that it belongs in national discussion and knows how to impose its will on whoever lines up against it.

This is the attitude that says, "I don't care how good you're supposed to be. I don't care what the name on the front of your jersey says. I'm going to hit you in the mouth, and keep doing so until you wish this game was never played."

It is the bulldog mentality, one that we've seen for only brief moments in the 2011 campaign.

This is not the same attitude as the "We're flat-out better than you" one K-State used against Kent State and KU. Those teams were simply inferior. Tomorrow, the Wildcat faithful need to see 60 minutes of bulldog against a team with more physical talent.

There will be no room for mistakes, but maybe that is fitting for a team that has made few so far this season.

The Sooners are coming off an incredible upset defeat at the hands of

Texas Tech. The loss all but removes OU from the national title picture. But you better believe, as a former assistant to Snyder himself, that Bob Stoops will have his squad ready.

"Boomer Sooner" will be prepared and angry, and the Wildcats are faced with lining up against them on a day that is sink or float for the entire season of Oklahoma football.

But Bill Snyder is not new to games with these implications. Against Texas last year, the Longhorns entered the game desperately needing a win to keep their season afloat. The Wildcats did not back down just because they were playing Texas. They earned their stripes by playing better, more physical and smarter football.

The same can be said for the 2003 Big 12 Championship game. K-State faced what had been called the best college football team in history, and soundly beat it 35-7.

If there is one thing Snyder knows how to do, it's win games as the little guy.

I expect K-State to be the better-prepared team tomorrow. Whether that translates into the first 8-0 start for K-State since 1999, however, remains to be seen. As much as Snyder is able to do during the week preparing his team from a schematics standpoint, he is not the man to plant that bulldog attitude into his players. That responsibility lies with team members alone, in their own heads.

Saturday marks the beginning of a stretch of games that I do not believe is as much about physical matchups as mental toughness. K-State is a good enough football team to beat anyone on any given day. It is the attitude with which it plays, and the avoidance of mistakes, that will determine the outcome.

And if there is one thing I know about Snyder teams, it's this: they do not make many mistakes, and they are always ready to play for 60 minutes.

What happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object? We will find out Saturday.

**Tyler Dreiling is a freshman in journalism and mass communications. Please send all comments to [sports@pub.ksu.edu](mailto:sports@pub.ksu.edu).**



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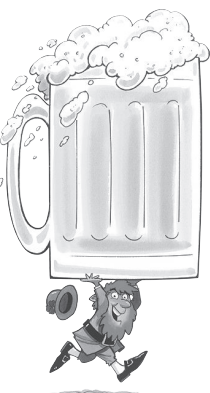
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GAMEDAYGUIDE

Week 9 games to watch: clash in California, Big Ten showdown



**SOUTH CAROLINA @ TENNESEE**

The Gamecocks travel to Knoxville to take on the Tennessee Volunteers. South Carolina is 6-1 on the season, but their Southeastern Conference title chances took a huge hit with the loss of All-American running back Marcus Lattimore. Lattimore was having a huge season until he tore ligaments in his knee in the 14-12 victory over Mississippi State two weeks ago. With the loss of Lattimore, the Gamecocks will now rely more on quarterback Connor Shaw and wide receiver Alshon Jeffery to carry the offense. Tennessee was able to hang with the second ranked Alabama Crimson Tide for the first half. The score was 6-6 at halftime and the Volunteers were playing some terrific defense. However, the Volunteers did not have the talent to keep up in the second half and the Tide rolled to a 37-6 victory. Tennessee will be starting a freshman quarterback as Justin Worley is going to be taking the snaps for the Volunteers. With Worley under center, look for running back Tauren Poole to be the focal point of the offense. If Poole is able to have success against a stingy Gamecock defense, then the Volunteers will have a chance to pull the upset.





**ILLINOIS @ PENN STATE**

It was just the two weeks ago that the Fighting Illini were ranked 15th in the country and starting to talk about a potential Rose Bowl berth. Since then, Illinois has lost two straight games to Ohio State and Purdue. A key to the Illinois struggles has been the inconsistency of quarterback Nathan Scheelhaase. Scheelhaase is a young quarterback with a lot of talent. However, his decision making has been suspect the past couple of weeks. He must play better if the Fighting Illini are going to leave Happy Valley with a win. Penn State is not going to wow you with an offensive explosion. Instead, the Nittany Lions are going to rely on running back Silas Redd and an outstanding defense. Redd has the ability to wear out a defense with his power running game. The matchup to watch in this game is going to be the Illini offense against the Nittany Lion defense. If Scheelhaase can get back to playing as he was earlier in the season, then Illinois could pull the upset.



**WAKE FOREST @ NORTH CAROLINA**

Before the season started, the Tar Heels were the team that was being regarded as the team that could be the surprise of the conference while the Demon Deacons were thought to be at the bottom of the standings. However, up to this point, it has been the complete opposite. Wake Forest comes into the game in second place in the ACC Atlantic Division, just a game behind number six Clemson. Those two teams meet in a couple of weeks, so a win over North Carolina would set up a potential winner take all matchup. North Carolina on the other hand, is looking for a win to save their season from spiraling out of control. There is still plenty of talent on the Tar Heels, the thing that must be done is not turning the ball over. Last week against Clemson, the Tar Heels turned the ball over six times. Even with this, coach Everett Withers told reporters that he is confident in his team. "After watching the tape, I thought we've got a pretty good football team if we don't turn it over," he said. If the Tar Heels are able to hold on to the ball, then this in-state rivalry has a chance to be a great game.



**STANFORD @ USC**

The Cardinal are coming off a game in which they destroyed a very talented Washington team. The Cardinal are led by Heisman front-runner Andrew Luck. Luck has had an outstanding season, but he is not getting the credit that he deserves. The Cardinal have not played a very tough schedule up to date, but they are now entering the tough part of the schedule. They will face a USC team that is coming off a very impressive victory against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. The Trojans went to South Bend and defeated Notre Dame 31-17. USC is also led by an outstanding quarterback in Matt Barkely. Barkely has been very effective in teaming up with wide receiver Robert Woods. This game should be a high scoring affair. The key will be which defense comes ready to play. The Cardinal enter the game ranked sixth in the country, and you can bet that USC's crowd will be rocking like it has not in years.




**MICHIGAN STATE @ NEBRASKA**

The Spartans are coming off one of the most exciting finishes in college football in recent memory. After blowing a 31-17 fourth quarter lead, quarterback Kirk Cousins threw a Hail Mary at the end of regulation. The Wisconsin defender mistimed his jump and the ball bounced into the hands of wide receiver Keith Nichol, who was able to just sneak in the end zone. The Spartans have been playing well on both sides of the ball and will look to continue this success in Lincoln. The Cornhuskers have won two straight games since the debacle at Wisconsin. The Huskers looked especially good last Saturday in a blowout victory over the Minnesota Golden Gophers. On offense, Nebraska is going to rely on quarterback Taylor Martinez and running back Rex Burkhead to make big plays with their feet. Martinez has still not shown that he is able to throw the ball consistently, so expect Michigan State to load the box with eight and sometime even nine guys. This game has all of the makings of a thriller. If Michigan State is able to force Nebraska to throw the ball, than the Spartans have a significant edge.


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USC  
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OU  
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Tennessee  
Penn State  
North Carolina



**Tyler Dreiling**  
staff writer  
(29-15)

Week 8 BCS Top 25 Poll

RK	TEAM	RECORD
1	LSU	8-0
2	ALABAMA	8-0
3	OKLAHOMA STATE	7-0
4	BOISE STATE	7-0
5	CLEMSON	8-0
6	STANFORD	7-0
7	OREGON	6-1
8	KANSAS STATE	7-0
9	OKLAHOMA	6-1
10	ARKANSAS	6-1
11	MICHIGAN STATE	6-1
12	VIRGINIA TECH	7-1
13	SOUTH CAROLINA	6-1
14	NEBRASKA	6-1
15	WISCONSIN	6-1
16	TEXAS A&M	5-2
17	HOUSTON	7-0
18	MICHIGAN	6-1
19	PENN STATE	7-1
20	TEXAS TECH	5-2
21	ARIZONA STATE	5-2
22	GEORGIA	5-2
23	AUBURN	5-3
24	TEXAS	4-2
25	WEST VIRGINIA	5-2

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